

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated October 30, 2002 (Paper No. 10) and the Advisory Action dated January 28, 2003 (Paper No. 13) have been considered.

Summary of the Office Action

In the Final Office Action dated October 30, 2002, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,396,356 to Fukuchi (hereinafter Fukuchi).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1 to differently describe the invention and to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2 and 5-21 remain pending in this application, and claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are currently under consideration.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuchi. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 is accordingly rendered moot.

To the extent that the Examiner may consider this rejection to apply to the remaining claims 1, 2 and 5-8, as newly amended, the rejection is traversed as being based upon a reference

that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features now recited in amended independent claim 1 and hence, dependent claims 2 and 5-8.

In the Office Action dated October 30, 2002, the Examiner relies upon Fukuchi for an alleged teaching of a liquid crystal device (LCD) including, amongst other elements, a pair of substrates, a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between the paired substrates, a seal pattern 19 formed peripherally to the active area, and between the first and second substrates, and an electrode pattern (13d, 14d, 15d) adjacent the seal pattern and outside the active area.

Claim 1, as amended recites a liquid crystal display device combination including “a seal pattern formed peripherally to said active area completely surrounding the electrode pattern, and contacting said first and said second substrate.” Fukuchi does not teach or fairly suggest this newly added feature of the amended claim. Fukuchi at most teaches providing a transparent electrode pattern, which constitutes a dummy or non-driving transparent electrode for controlling the cell gap under the position of the sealing material 19 as shown in FIG. 1 (column 3, lines 16-23). Therefore, Fukuchi provides a dummy electrode under the sealing material and not completely surrounded by the seal pattern as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 has been further amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4. In particular, claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the second substrate additionally includes “data lines and gate lines arranged in a matrix shape to define pixel areas; a TFT at an intersection of a data line and a gate line; a protective film on the TFT; and a pixel electrode on said protective film.” Moreover, claim 1 has been further amended to recite that “the electrode pattern is between said seal pattern and said protective film.” Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference does not teach or

suggest a liquid crystal display device combination including at least a pixel electrode provided on a protective film or an electrode pattern provided between a seal pattern and a protective film in the manner recited in at least independent claim 1, as newly amended.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because Fukuchi does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as amended. MPEP §2143.03 instructs that “[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).” Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2 and 5-8 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned “**Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made.**”

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant’s undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required.

including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR**

EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 28, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
 - a first substrate having a common electrode;
 - a second substrate having an active area;
 - an electrode pattern formed on the second substrate;
 - a seal pattern formed peripherally to said active area ~~on~~ **completely surrounding** the electrode pattern, and contacting said first substrate and said second substrate;
 - a liquid crystal layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, and on the active area,

wherein said second substrate comprises:

data lines and gate lines arranged in a matrix shape to define pixel areas;

a TFT at an intersection of a data line and a gate line;

a protective film on the TFT; and

a pixel electrode on said protective film,

wherein the electrode pattern is between said seal pattern and said protective film.

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